

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 EB-07

COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGR-10 AID-05 /090 W

----- 120925

R 040837Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3991

INFO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMCONGEN CASABLANCA

UNCLAS ALGIERS 0573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, MO, AG, TS

SUBJECT: TSS/AGRICULTURAL LAND DEVELOPMENT MAY 1976

REF: 75 ALGIERS 3244

1. FOLLOWING IS FURTHER GENERAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON GOA EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURAL LAND DEVELOPMENT. INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, MR. BOUKLI, DURING THE RECENT VISIT TO ALGIERS OF THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS OF THE APOLLO - SOYUZ MISSION.

2. THE BARRAGE VERT - THIS IS TO BE A TREE BELT 25 KILOMETERS DEEP AND 1500 KILOMETERS LONG STRETCHING FROM BECHAR TO TUNISIAN BORDER ALONG THE NORTHERN LIMIT OF THE DESERT. FOUR "POINTS" OF THIS BELT ARE ALREADY PLANTED. THE WORK HAS BEEN DONE LARGELY BY MEN DOING THEIR NATIONAL SERVICE, 10,000 AT A TIME.

3. THE STEPPE - THIS IS A PROJECT TO IMPROVE THE RANGE AND INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN THE STEPPE AREA NORTH OF THE BARRAGE VERT. THE TOTAL STEPPE AREA IS 13-16 MILLION UNCLASSIFIED

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HECTARES, OF WHICH SOME 5 MILLION ARE TO BE DEVELOPED.

THIRTY UNITS HAVE BEEN SET UP SO FAR. A BELT OF FOREST TREES IS TO BE SET UP AROUND EACH AND THROUGH A SYSTEM OF ROTATION THEY HOPE TO IMPROVE THE GREEZING. THIS IS THE FIRST PHASE, AND THEY HOPE GRADUALLY TO IMPROVE THE TOTAL AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL OF THES AREAS, NOT JUST GRAZING.

4. THE DESERT OASES" THERE IS A STRING OF OASES FROM ABADLA TO THE LIBYAN FRONTIER, THESE ARE TO BE DEVELOPED AGRICULTURALLY THROUGH PROJECTS SUCH AS THE MORRISON KNUDSEN PROJECT AT ABADLA. THEY ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE PERHAPS 100,00 HECTARES WHICH CAN BE PUT INTO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

5. IN ALL THREE PHASES, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DEPENDENCE ON FOSSIL WATER. LYNE

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